

ANEILEMA (COMMELINACEAE) IN THE UNITED STATES. —

Two Asiatic species of *Aneilema* have become established in the Southeastern United States within the present Century, but as yet no American flora treats both of them. A Mexican species has been found very close to the Texas border, and is worth noting as something to watch for on the American side. The three may be distinguished as follows.

- 1a. Annual or perennial with fibrous roots, the stems at least partly decumbent and rooting at the nodes; leaves several to many, all but the uppermost with short but distinctly differentiated sheath; southeastern Texas east to Atlantic Coast
 - 2a. Sepals 2—3 mm. long, glabrous; flowers early becoming exserted on long, naked peduncles, several or many in each inflorescence
 1. *A. nudiflorum*
 - 2b. Sepals 5—6 mm. long, hispid-pilose on back, at least near tip; flowers tardily exserted on short, usually 1-flowered peduncles
 2. *A. Keiskei*
- 1b. Perennial with tuberous-thickened roots, the erect stem with 1—3 leaves, only the lowest with well defined sheath; Mexico, possibly Trans-Pecos Texas..... 3. *A. lineare*

1. *A. NUDIFLORUM* (L.) R. Brown ex Kunth, Syn. Pl. 4: 66. 1843. (This combination is merely implied by R. Brown in Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holl. p. 271, 1810: "Hujus generis sunt *Commelina virgata*, *nudiflora*, *spirata*, *medica*, *Vahl. enum.*" Vahl, Enum. Pl. 2: 176, 1785, credits *Commelina nudiflora* to Linnaeus.) *Commelina nudiflora* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 41—42. 1753. (Linnaeus cites his own *Flora Zeylanica* and Plukenet's *Almagestum*. In his *Mantissa Plantarum Altera*, p. 177, 1771, he gives a new description evidently based on later material than was available in 1753. Kunth, in validating the transfer to *Aneilema*, specifies the Plukenet illustration as representative, in effect making it the type. Fortunately this agrees with Linnaeus's own emendation. C. B. Clarke, in DC., Mono. Phan. 3: 144, 1881, retains the name *Commelina nudiflora* L. "Sp. Pl. 1, p. 61, nec Mant. 177, nec auct." in place of *C. diffusa* Burman, citing a Ceylon specimen in Burman's herbarium. Presumably he thought this the same as the plant described in Linnaeus's *Flora Zeylanica*. At the same time he recognizes *Aneilema nudiflorum* on p. 210, which is nomenclaturally impossible by present rules, since the latter was a new combination based on the former. Clarke however cites there "*Commelina nudiflora*, Linn.! Mant. p. 177 (nec Sp. Pl. nec Fl. Zeyl.)," reversing the typification established by Kunth and implied by Linnaeus himself. Since Linnaeus, in the citation from the *Flora Zeylanica*, specifies "involucro nullo" (and presumably because of that very peculiarity chose the epithet *nudiflora*), it is difficult to understand why Clarke should have equated *Commelina nudiflora* with the spathe-bearing *C. diffusa*. In any case his rejection of Kunth's typification can-

not be accepted. The double listing of the Linnaean binomial in Index Kewensis is to be disregarded; only the first entry, as synonym of *Aneilema nudiflorum*, should stand.)

This species was first reported from the United States by Small in 1910 (Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 37: 513—514) as established around Bradenton (Bradenton, Manatee Co.), Florida, where it had been observed for several years. In the second edition of his *Flora of the Southeastern United States* (p. 1328, 1913), the range is given as southern Georgia and Florida. In his *Manual of the Southeastern Flora* (p. 263, 1933), he says "Fla. to Ga." The plant has spread to the western Gulf region, as shown by the following collection. TEXAS. Jefferson Co.: nursery garden of P. A. Winkler, Voth Road, Beaumont, V. L. Cory 49974, 3 October 1945 (SMU). "Introduced from further east, and is a pest and hard to eradicate from gardens."

2. A. KEISAK Hasskarl, Commelinaceae Indicae pp. 32—34. 1870. With var. (alpha) *nutans*, pp. 33—34, and var. (beta) *erectum*, p. 34. First reported from the United States by Neil Hotchkiss in 1940 (*Rhodora* 42: 21) from Minim Island, Georgetown County, South Carolina, as *A. nudiflorum*. This he corrected to *A. Keisak* in reporting it from numerous localities from Virginia to Georgia in 1951 (*Rhodora* 53: 92—93). Radford in the latter year also reported it from several localities in North Carolina (ibid. p. 25). Fernald considered it a native species of bicentric distribution between Virginia and eastern Asia (*Rhodora* 42: 392, 441—442; 1940; Gray's Manual, 8th ed., p. 393, 1950). In view of the other records, there is little doubt of its being introduced in North America.

3. A. LINEARE (Benth) Woodson (as *linearis*), Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 29: 148. 1942. *Tradescantia linearis* Benth, Pl. Hartw. p. 27. 1839. Superficially this has considerable resemblance to *Tradescantia Wrightii*, differing conspicuously in the branched, open inflorescence, quite unlike the condensed, umbel-like one typical of *Tradescantia*. The following collection comes from just south of the Big Bend region of Texas. COAHUILA. Frequent in shade on north, igneous slopes of Picache del Centinela, Del Carmen Mts., alt. 6000 ft., Barton H. Warnock 11624, 24 August 1953 (SMU). Other specimens have been seen from Durango and Jalisco.

In publishing the generic name *Aneilema*, Robert Brown treated it as feminine. It may be argued that he was entitled to do so, since it was a manufactured word. The last three syllables are a Greek word meaning veil or covering, and the word in Greek is neuter. Since such Linnaean generic names as *Erigeron* have been altered from the gender assigned by Linnaeus to the etymologically correct one, consistency requires that the same be done with Brown's. — Lloyd H. Shinnars.

SIPHONYCHIA TRANSFERRED TO PARONYCHIA (CARYOPHYLLACEAE). — The small Southeastern genus *Siphonychia* has been maintained as distinct from *Paronychia* on the basis of having perianth